

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

OMB-01 A-01 SY-05 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /084 W

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5428

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN TIEN AN MEN

REF: PEKING 0599

1. SITUATION AS OF 1600 HOURR LOCAL APRIL 6.FAR MORE PEOPLE
THAN NORMAL TIMES, BUT ONLY A FEW THOUSAND AT MOST , MOVED THROUGH
AND MILLED ABOUT IN TIEN AN MEN SWUARE ON APRIL 6. THEY
CONCENTRATED AT THE MARTYRS MONUMENT (WHERE A SINGLE, TOKEN WREATH
REMAINED IN PLACEBL AND NEAR THE BUILDING IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER
THAT HAD BEEN SACKED AND PARTLY BURNED (INTERIOR OF THE FRONT
ENTRANCE AREA) THE EVENING BEFORE. FOREIGNERS VISITING THE
SQUARE, PARTICULARLY JOURNALISTS WHO SINCE YESTERDAY HAVE BEEN
RUNNING COOPERATIVE COVERAGE OF THE SCENE THERE, SENSED THAT THEY
WERE WELL ADVISED TO KEEP MOVING. A FEW FOREIGNERS GOT INTO HASSLES
WITH ROVING TEENAGERS. REPORTEDLY THERE WAS ONE MINOR INCIDENT IN
WHICH PLA GUARDS REPULSED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY A SMALL BAND OF
YOUTHS TRYING TO GAIN ENTRY INTO EITHER THE GREAT HALL OF THE
PEOPLE OR THE HISTORY MUSEUM. ALONG THE APPROACHES TO THE SQUARE,
MANY IDLERS SAT OR STOOD WAITING OR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN AND PERHAPS
JUST GNEERALLY SAVORING THE CHANGE FROM PEKING'S USUAL MONOTONY.

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WU TEH'S SPEECH (REFTEL) WAS REBROADCAST IN THE SQUARE SEVERAL

TIMES AT MID-DAY.

2. THE FINAL CLEARING OF THE SQUARE LAST NIGHT APPARENTLY DID NOT OCCUR UNTIL AROUND 0030 HOURS. ACCORDING TO A WESTERN DIPLOMAT WHO WITNESSED IT, MILITIA "SLICED INTO" DEMONSTRATORS WHO HAD REMAINED IN THE SQUARE, , CHIEFLY AT THE MARTYRS' MONUMENT, AND MARCHED THEM, SURROUNDED, IN GROUPS OF 40 TO 60 INTO THE IMPERIAL CITY. MILITIA CARRYING PICKHANDLES OR STAVES WERE SEEN AS LATE AS 0500 IN THE SOUTHERN APPROACHES TO THE SQUARE, BUT RETIRED FROM VIEW SOON THEREAFTER. THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE AMPLE FORCES CLOSE BY, BUT THESE ARE NOT ON DISPLAY.

3. THE WESTERN DIPLOMAT CITED IN PARA 2 ALSO SAW CARS IN FRONT OF THE GREAT HALL AT 0030 AND MANY LIGHTED WINDOWS IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE BUILDING, INDICATION OF A LEADERSHIP MEETING IN PROGRESS. USLO OFFICERS WHO DROVE PAST THE HALL AT 2300 APRIL 5 HAD NOT SEEN ANY CARS, ALTHOUGH A LARGE ROOM IN THE SAME CORNER OF THE BUILDING WAS FULLY LIT. AROUND 1000 APRIL 6 THE DEMONSTRATORS HAD APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT A LEADERSHIP MEETING WAS UNDER WAY INSIDE THE HALL.

THOMAS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING00611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760129-0215
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760492/aaaadbdr.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PEKING 599
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN TIEN AN MEN
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006